

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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October 2007

Citizens Can Help through Water Conservation



The City continues to take steps to ensure the availability of quality drinking water.

The city has taken steps to ensure that adequate water supplies are available in the future to provide water for basic needs, even in times of drought. The city replaced all the water meters and is continuing to detect and repair leaks in the aging infrastructure in an at-

tempt to reduce the loss of water from the system. The City Council also has purchased and leased water in addition to the amount Alamo Heights is allowed to pump from its own wells.

While the city continues to take steps to ensure the availability of quality drinking water, citizens can assist in the effort by reducing their demand through conservation. Saving water can add to the supply, ensuring that water is available even in the driest of years.

Keeping the value of water in mind when doing daily activities helps make conservation effortless. Filling a container rather than letting the water run, such as filling a sink to wash dishes or a glass to brush teeth, means lots of water is saved with-

out affecting the quality of daily life. It's merely a matter of doing things differently.

Other important ways to save may mean updating bathroom plumbing, such as installing low-flow shower heads and toilets. These steps can save many gallons of water at little expense for the upgrades.

The big user of water in Alamo Heights is landscaping but even with the desire to maintain a green environment, smart moves can make a difference. Nurseries now stock a variety of drought-resistant plants that can tolerate heat and dry periods. These plants add to the beauty of the area without demanding large amounts of water.

St. Augustine grass is one of the biggest users of water but even during periods without rain, it only requires one inch of water per week. Many people make the mistake of watering frequently rather than deeply. The result is not only extra use of water but also the potential for damage during cold weather if the roots are shallow from frequent watering.

Water savings also can be accomplished through monitoring sprinkler systems to ensure they do not run after a beneficial rain or even while it is raining. To ensure proper use of sprinkler systems, the city has adopted an ordinance that requires rain sensors on all systems by the end of the year.

Walkers and Runners Should Practice Safety Tips

Walkers and runners are encouraged to always walk or run on the left side of the road facing traffic. This practice will allow walkers and runners to observe the habits of drivers on their side of the road as they are approaching and take evasive action should it appear a driver does not see them. This action is especially important with the upcoming time change to Central Standard Time as well as extended hours of darkness during the fall and winter seasons.

For additional safety, walkers and runners are strongly encouraged to wear bright clothing complimented by a reflective device or materials. Flashlights or other warnings lights help call attention to walkers in the darkness. As an added safety measure, pets accompanying their owners should also have a reflective collar or warning light attached to the collar or leash.

Calendar

Early Voting for Elections October 22 - November 2

*City Election - City Council Chambers

*State Election - Any Bexar County Voting Site

November

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 5 | Planning and Zoning Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 6 | Election Day - Cambridge Elementary | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. |
| 7 | Board of Adjustments Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 12 | Holiday — Veteran's Day | |
| 13 | Architectural Review Board Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 14 | City Council Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |

Note: Holiday Solid Waste Pickup Schedule will be in effect for the week of November 12th.

911 for EMERGENCY

Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281
Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321
Police Administration Office: 822-6433
Police Investigations: 822-2164

CITY HALL

Administration: 822-3331
Taxes: 882-1502
Water: 882-1507
Court Clerk: 882-1501
Public Works: 826-0516 (includes permits, garbage & trash, brush, recycling, inspections, etc.)

Mayor & Aldermen

Louis Cooper-MAYOR
882-1511
lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal- MAYOR PRO
TEM/PLACE 2
882-1513
broenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

Stan McCormick-PLACE 1
882-1512
smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Jill Souter-PLACE 3
882-1514
jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
882-1515
bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov

Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
882-1516
sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov

City Officials

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER
882-1500
rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
882-1506
seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Darren Smith-FIRE CHIEF
832-2205
dsmith@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
832-2200
rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-CITY TREASURER/
TAX -ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
882-1502
cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
MANAGER/INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
882-1508
mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov

Denise Silva - CITY SECRETARY
832-2209
dsilva@alamoheightstx.gov

Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
882-1503
jsurratt@alamoheightstx.gov

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

CITY BRIEFS

City to Hold Special Election

The City of Alamo Heights will hold a special election on Nov. 6, so citizens may vote on three propositions:

Proposition One - To amend the city charter to eliminate provisions that have become inoperative because they have been superseded by state law; to replace citations to obsolete statutory references; to update terminology to current legal usage; and to eliminate the obsolete transitional provisions that no longer have effect.

Proposition Two - To amend the city charter to change the form of government from Mayor-Aldermanic to Council-Manager.

Proposition Three - To establish a limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes imposed on the residential homestead of a person who is disabled or is 65 years of age or older and received a residential homestead exemption.

Early voting will be conducted weekdays from Oct. 22-Nov. 2 at the Alamo Heights Council Chambers, 6120 Broadway, for precincts 3020, 3025 and 3026.

Dates and times for early voting include:

Monday, October 22	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday, October 23	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, October 24	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 25	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday, October 26,	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday, October 29	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday, October 30	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, October 31	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursday, November 1	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday, November 2	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On Election Day, Nov. 6, voters in precincts 3020, 3025 and 3026 will vote at Cambridge Elementary School, 1001 Townsend Avenue. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To vote in the special election, residents must be registered to vote in the City of Alamo Heights at least 30 days before the election. Applications for early voting ballots by mail are available at City Hall and must be received by the City Secretary by Oct. 30.

For more information about the Nov. 6 special election, please call the City Secretary's office at 832-2209 or visit the city's website at www.alamoheightstx.gov

Plan to Vote on State Amendments

The City of Alamo Heights special election will coincide with the Texas State election on constitutional amendments covering 16 separate propositions. During the early voting period, voters may go to any Bexar County early voting site to vote on the amendments. The closest early

voting sites to Alamo Heights will be Oakwell Library and Olmos Basin Golf Club House. A convenience for Alamo Heights residents is that on Election Day, Cambridge Elementary School will be the voting site for the city's special election and the state election as well.

For information on the state propositions, visit the Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections. For information on the Bexar County voting site locations, visit the Bexar County Elections Department at www.bexar.org/elections or call 335-8683.

City Adopts 2007 Tax Rate

The City Council adopted a total tax rate of \$0.355662 per \$100 of assessed value at its Sept. 24 meeting. The rate consists of a maintenance and operation rate of \$0.321322, which is \$0.003839 less than last year's rate of \$0.325161. The interest and sinking rate is \$0.03434 per \$100. The total tax rate is \$0.030501 higher than the 2006 tax rate of \$0.325161.

The City of Alamo Heights continues to bill and collect city taxes. Statements for 2007 taxes should be out by the end of October and will be due by Jan. 31. A quarterly payment plan is available for qualified residential homesteads of disabled American veterans and persons over 65 years of age. Additional details are provided on the reverse side of your tax statement or you may call the Administrative Offices at 822-3331.

City Council Adopts 2007-2008 Strategic Action Plan

On October 8th, the City Council approved a Resolution adopting the City of Alamo Heights 2007-2008 Strategic Action Plan. The plan establishes new goals and action steps for the remainder of the fiscal year as well as a vision statement and core values of the City. The 2007-2008 Strategic Plan is available on the City's website at www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

31st Annual Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade

The "Annual Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade On Broadway" is sponsored by the Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce.

This year's parade will be on Saturday, November 17th at 5:30 p.m. on Broadway starting at Fair Oaks Avenue and ending at Cleveland Court.

For more information concerning the parade please contact the Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce at 822-7024 or visit the AH Chamber of Commerce website at www.alamoheightschamber.org